



WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.
Tuesday – September 27, 2011 at 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman A. Nguyen on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 6:05 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Commissioner Carey led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Andrew Nguyen, Diana Carey, Gilbert Cruz, Linh Nguyen and Ken Robbins

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Corporal Mark Lauderback, Police Department and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of July 26, 2011 were approved 4-0 with Chairman A. Nguyen abstaining.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

Mr. Ozaeta requested that the second item be heard first and Chairman A. Nguyen moved to begin with the second item considering there were no persons in the audience to speak on behalf of the first item.

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 75-134, Request to rescind parking restrictions at 5772 Garden Grove Boulevard.

T.C. 75-134 5772 Garden Grove

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received a written request from Vince Allen, Los Alisos Mobile Home Estates, to rescind parking restrictions on the south side of Garden Grove Boulevard at the two access driveways of their facility to increase their on-street parking supply, address enforcement, and safety issues.

Mr. Ozaeta directed attention to Exhibit A to illustrate the two driveways. In accordance to intersection requirements, staff implemented 175 feet of parking restrictions to accommodate the 5 second corner sight visibility distance for vehicles to safely maneuver a turn. Although, this is not an intersection, it acts as an

intersection as all of the traffic enters and exits onto Garden Grove Boulevard.

Mr. Sublett, property owner, was open to the option of reducing parking restrictions from 175 feet to 20 feet for vehicle clearance as opposed to sight distance.

The original request from Los Alisos Mobile Home Estates throughout the years has been to identify the safest constraints for the community, and staff delivered.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request to rescind parking restrictions at 5772 Garden Grove Boulevard.

Brad Sublett spoke in favor of rescinding parking restrictions because there are too many cars in the mobile home park. There are 726 homes and 168 vacancies, once fully occupied, this will result in 3500 people in the need of parking. The park is under renovation and all units will be rented once the project is complete. There are 130 visitor parking spaces and it is not enough. Additionally, RVs and big rigs are parked on the street, which create more visibility problems than the red curb. He is okay with reducing red curb to acquire any additional parking for the community. They have a gated plan approved to include a third driveway soon.

Phil Anthony, resident, spoke in favor of reducing parking restrictions. He stated the park used to be Senior living and is now a younger family oriented community; therefore, would like to request for the older parking restrictions to be brought up to the current situations.

Corporal Lauderback spoke in opposition to rescinding the parking restrictions due to the speeding rate and research results from January 2010 until today's date. The report included three accidents from the east of Melanie Street and Bolsa Chica Road; two vehicles were sideswiped and one motor officer was hit by a resident exiting the west driveway. The accidents were attributed to sight visibility or age. The police department supports the traffic engineering recommendations as they are the experts in this field. In addressing the parked RV's and big rigs; RV's are allowed to park for 24 hours and are given citations thereafter. After 72 hours they can be towed. The big rigs are allowed to park on the streets for two hours and thereafter are issued a citation. The big rig truck drivers are aware of the City's policies but, this expense would be less than finding or paying for parking elsewhere.

Commissioner Carey questioned if panel trucks are ticketed at the same rate as the big rigs and Corporal Lauderback explained that all commercial vehicles are ticked the same.

Commissioner Carey stated she is concerned with the speeding and that the elderly may not have enough time to pull out of the driveways. She is very familiar with this route and can normally find a few parking spaces further down the street. She questioned if the City has restricted street parking solely for residents and Corporal Lauderback explained they do not.

Commissioner Carey stated she was in favor of 20 feet of restrictions to the east and two spaces to the west, but is not comfortable with less than 20 feet at either driveway due to sight visibility concerns.

Chairman A. Nguyen questioned what the original restrictions were and Mr. Ozaeta explained that sight distance triangles were applied from the request and that the Commission does have some flexibility due to the location not being an intersection. Restrictions are not normally applied until someone in the community initiates a request, in return, staff will assess the area.

Brad Sublett added that they will have another request for the Commission in approximately three months once the new tenant moves in.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that they could momentarily come up with a compromise and revisit the item after the driveway opens at Melanie Street. During the interim, staff could lay tubes down at the driveways to track the traffic volume for further determination of what may alleviate the problems.

Vice Chairman Robbins is in favor of reducing the red curb; although, he is concerned that with the new tenant bringing in more business and people, it will create more traffic and require the visibility to get in and out.

Brad Sublett stated he would like for some type of solution for him and the new tenant to operate their businesses as it is beneficial to the City. Some solutions may be to install a flashing light or reduce the speed limit; although, once the Cal Tran's project is done, the rerouted off-ramps may redirect and eliminate some of the traffic patterns.

Commissioner Cruz suggested starting out with rescinding four parking spaces, 80 feet on the requested 175 feet and three parking spaces, 60 feet on the requested 153 feet. He also proposed increasing the parking fines for the larger trucks.

Commissioner Carey requested for staff to look into a residential parking permit system and Mr. Ozaeta informed this would require a majority vote in favor from the community; and have to include the cost of managing the system and traffic enforcement around the clock.

MOTION

Commissioner Cruz moved to approve rescinding 80 feet of the 175 feet, giving 95 feet of parking restrictions to the west of Via Porto and rescinding 60 feet of the 153 feet, giving 93 feet of parking restrictions to the west of Los Alisos, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

T.C. 82-107 Iroquois Road

The second item for discussion was T.C. 82-107, Request for the installation of parking restrictions on the south side of Iroquois Road, east of Springdale Street.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received a written request from John Pumphrey, 6131 Iroquois Road, to install parking restrictions at subject location. Recently, a new traffic signal light was installed at the intersection and Mr. Pumphrey believes that there is not enough room to safely perform a right turn. He believes that the removal of 68 feet to the east of Springdale would be safer for commuters. Previously, there was a stop sign and you were forced to stop; however, with the new signal, once you approach the green light at the intersection, you have to keep moving to get out of the way of the other vehicles traveling along the corridor. Staff's assessment prior to installation of the new traffic signal is in compliance with the City's standard plans.

Vice Chairman Robbins was not in favor of parking restrictions because the resident at 13772 will not have any parking available for visitors. It is the driver's obligation to slow down and safely make a turn.

Commissioner Carey was not in favor of parking restrictions because we had lost a lot of parking due to the new traffic signal. Parking is a premium, and agrees this is

a tight corner to turn during the weekend. She suggested 20 feet of red curb; but, not the entire 68 feet.

Commissioner Cruz questioned how far the red zone is from the corner and Mr. Ozaeta explained that it is close to the crosswalk.

Commissioner Robbins questioned the length of the red curb on the north side of Iroquois and Mr. Ozaeta explained they are 20 feet per Municipal Code.

Discussion ensued among the Commission.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for parking restriction on the south side of Iroquois Road to the east of Springdale Street.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Robbins motioned to add 20 feet of red curb restrictions to the north and south side of Iroquois and to the east and west side of Springdale Street, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

Ms. Johnson interjected that the residents on the northwest side of Springdale and Iroquois were not notified and hence this motion could not be made. This item could be brought back at next month's meeting once the residents are notified.

Vice Chairman Robbins motioned to bring back the item to the next Traffic Commission meeting with recommendations to both sides of the Streets; seconded by Commissioner Carey.

VOTE

The motion was carried by 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Carey informed the Commission that on November 4, 2011 there will be a 55-hour closure while they demolish the Westside of the Bolsa Chica and Springdale bridge.

**INFORMATION
& REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

Commissioner Cruz questioned the correct procedure for painting after asphalt is laid and Mr. Ozaeta provided details on striping procedures.

Commissioner Carey questioned what the steel barrier was on the base of the new signal at Meinhardt and Mr. Ozaeta explained that because the ramp is not ADA compliant, it is to prevent pedestrians from walking into a full curb. The signal will be turned on tomorrow, the crosswalk has been relocated from the south to the north.

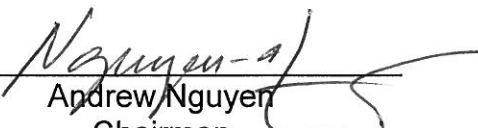
**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

There were no "Items Staff May Wish to Discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew Nguyen
Chairman



Veronica Johnson
Secretary